

# Wetlands

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Some species of birds have been visiting here for over 100,000 years, so it’s not new, but it needs protected,” said Wayne Lebsack, Kansas Chapter Board of Trustees for The Nature Conservancy.

The Center is expected to build a constituency that cares about nature, focuses attention on funding for preservation and fosters conservation partnerships with wildlife enthusiasts.

Fort Hays State and Barton County Community College will work together to make the Center available to the world. The Sternberg Museum will oversee the Center after it is completed. Barton County Community College, with funding from Kan-Ed, will support the Center with a wireless

network including internet, multiple cameras, video and research sensors. This connection will give researches all over the world access to the Bottoms through high speed/high bandwidth connection.

Cheyenne Bottoms is a 20,000-acre refuge in central Barton County. Three-hundred-twenty species of birds can be seen around the refuge throughout the year. Nearly half of all North American shorebirds pass through the Bottoms during spring migration because the Bottoms act as a “sky interstate” for the birds.

After completion, the Center will be part of one of two National Scenic Byways in the state.

“(The Center) is a treasure not only for the state, but also for the nation and the world,” Sebelius said.



MIKE COURSON/  
THE EDGE

From left to right, Fort Hays State President Ed Hammond, Mike Hayden (alumnus and Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks), Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Great Bend Mayor Mike Allison cut the ribbon for the ground breaking of the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms

Mole Day

ZACH BECKER/THE EDGE

Chemists nationwide, including Fort Hays State chemistry students, celebrated Mole Day October 23. Students made posters that were put on display in Tomanek. The Mole is a unit of measure equal to 6.02 x 10<sup>23</sup> particles.

## ▼ Halloween

# Blue Light Lady legend continues

Robert Cummins  
*News Editor*

Historic Fort Hays, home to more than just history, but the setting for one of the most well known ghost legends of the prairie; The legend of the Blue Light Lady.

According to legend, a woman named Elizabeth Polly died while treating soldiers at the old fort.

Some say it was the bubonic plague that killed her, while others say it was cholera. The legend centers on a strange blue light that haunts the area around where Polly was rumored to have been buried.

Some reports had said that the strange blue light would appear on the hill at night sometimes, moving from place to place. Other reports indicate a women surrounded by a blue aura could sometimes be seen walking towards the old fort.

Over the years, numerous claims had been made that sights of the haunting had been seed at Sentinel Hill, Historic Fort Hays, and the farm houses near the hill.

For years, students of Fort Hays State University and Hays residents have been told the legend of the Blue Light Lady, as well as made trips out to Sentinel Hill to try and catch a look at the ghost.

Atop the hill there is a marker, the lonely marker as it is sometimes called. It is at this location that most of the sightings have been reported.

THE EDGE

The Voice of Integrity  
at Fort Hays State University

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Happy Halloween!

# VICTORY



## Tigers celebrate first win of season



TOM MANWARREN/THE EDGE

At far above right, Assistant Coach Shawn Mennenga celebrates with Ryan Dolan after the victory Saturday against Missouri Southern. Above, Cody Engle runs after intercepting a pass.

Cole Reif  
*Sports Editor*

Notch one in the win column.

Witnesses might have been scarce, but the 1,209 fans that did show up for Saturday's Fort Hays State football game against Missouri Southern observed a 10-0 victory for the Tigers.

The win marks their first on the season and the end of a 13-game losing streak dating back to last year.

On a day where neither team's offense could manage much, the Tigers saw their defense have one of their best performances of the season, recording six turnovers.

“Receiving those turnovers can really change things around in the conference standings in a hurry,” Kevin Verdugo, Tiger head coach, commented in

his post-game interview on Tiger Radio Mix 103. “The bottom line for us to get those was the kids being assignment confident and just playing with great effort all day.”

The Tigers garnered their first turnover on a fumble recovery by sophomore Cody Engle over halfway through the 1st quarter.

“We knew they were a really good passing team, and we knew who they were going to pass to,” Engle said. “They had a couple of good receivers that they look to go to, so we knew who to key in on.”

Fort Hays State could not do much with the great field position as they turned it over on downs.

The Tiger defense would do their job once again, though, forcing the Lions to

punt the ball on their ensuing possession.

Starting on their own 45, Fort Hays struck quickly on second and eleven when junior Shane Jackson completed a pass to fellow junior Cody Witte for a 28-yard gain. They continued their drive at the start of the second quarter and entrusted the ball in their tailback's hands. Jordan Hickel, who ran for 55 yards, capped the drive off with a 1-yard touchdown run.

On Missouri Southern's first play of the second quarter, the Tigers intercepted Lion quarterback Adam Hinspeter. This time, Adam Woods got in on the action.

SEE 'FOOTBALL' ON PAGE 4

## ▼ Sternberg Museum

# Kansas Wetlands Education Center breaks ground

Mike Courson  
*Staff Writer*

Despite blustery conditions, a large crowd gathered Friday morning for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms.

The event featured Fort Hays State University President Edward Hammond, Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Mike Hayden, Fort Hays State alumnus and Secretary of Kansas Wildlife and Parks.

The Center, with a grand-opening expected in January 2008, will feature state-of-the-art nature-viewing facilities, including remote cameras for real-time viewing within the building and

nature trails and observation decks on the outside.

Trained staff and professionally designed exhibits will also teach visitors about the area and wildlife conservation needs.

The Center will bring many benefits to central Kansas, according to Hammond.

“The major function the center will provide is education,” Hammond said. “It will be an extension of the Sternberg Museum.”

Hammond said local students have been researching in the area for over 60 years.

“(The Center) gives school children a great opportunity to learn about Kan-



TOM MANWARREN/THE EDGE

Fort Hays State President Ed Hammond delivers a speech Friday during the ground breaking of the Wetlands Center in Great Bend.



EDITORIAL

Virtual college a success, but at what cost?

A while back, Fort Hays State announced that online campus enrollment officially surpassed that of traditional on-campus students.

In other words, more students are attending this school who may never even see the place than there are students attending day-to-day brick and mortar classes.

While “virtual learning” is obviously a big money maker (how else do they keep the tuition costs lower than everywhere else?), how much learning is really going on in these virtual “classrooms?”

Sure, most students at some point enroll in a virtual class and come out no worse for the wear. But to get an entire degree online?

A major part of the learning experience comes from classroom interactions amongst students and between professors and students.

By nature, this interaction does not exist in a virtual classroom.

Sure, discussion boards and other online interactions are great, but they serve best as a supplement to classroom learning, not as a replacement. Same goes for podcasts, videos and other online teaching techniques.

And how does an instructor know for sure if online course-work is even completed by the actual student enrolled? Where’s the credibility?

Virtual learning is a very convenient way to get a college education. For some people, it may be the only way.

But what value does that education have? Are students really learning anything online?

-The Editorial Board

War’s effect spreads beyond front lines

I met Ann (not her real name) my freshman year at Fort Hays State. We were in a Composition class and right away I found we shared a common interest: hockey.

With two weeks of classes left that year, she found me in the weight room and asked if I wanted to watch a playoff game with her that night. I said I would.

I thought about her question constantly over the next three hours while I worked out. I decided that it would not be a wise move. I liked a girl back home – had for several years, actually – and would be going back in two weeks. It seemed unfair to lead Ann on when I had feelings for another.

When Ann walked to my dorm in the rain that evening, I told her why I wouldn’t watch the game with her. She was obviously hurt but seemed to understand. We never really spoke after that.

Years later, I was in a bar with a friend who also went to Fort Hays State. I told her about this girl who, unlike most, seemed interested in me. My friend appeared lost in thought for a moment before asking which Ann I was talking about.

When I told her about whom I was referring, she told me that Ann had killed herself.



Mike Courson  
Staff Writer

I had not been close friends with Ann, but the news made me sick. As far as I could tell, Ann had been a nice girl.

The loss of such a young, seemingly good life made me speechless. I asked how this could occur.

Apparently, Ann married a soldier in 2004. Little did she know at the time that mere days after what should have been their one-year anniversary, Ann would instead be attending her late husband’s funeral.

He was killed in action in Iraq. Three months later, unable to live her life without her husband, Ann killed herself.

Many are quick to judge those who commit suicide. “Selfish” is a word often used, as if it is less selfish to expect someone to suffer each day just so people don’t have to deal with the reality of suicide.

Ann’s case is more sad than selfish; a girl who found a companion

only for him to die young. She could not bear the sadness and chose to end it the only way she knew how.

I use Ann’s story only because it was the first and only time I’ve been personally affected by the death of a soldier in Iraq. I never knew her husband, and I barely knew her, but the fact that these two young live are gone sickened me in a way I’d not experienced before.

All of a sudden I wished I had known her better, wished I had known how she felt, wished I could have done something for her. All of the sudden I cared.

The saddest part of this story is that it gets worse each day. Over 70 soldiers have died just this month in Iraq. Nearly 3,000 soldiers have died there since 2003. Some estimate that there are hundreds of thousands of dead Iraqis. Each death represents far more than just a number. Long after a soldier is laid to rest, his or her loved ones continue to suffer for years.

The pain is worse when a death seems to lack any rhyme or reason. So far, we’ve not been given a satisfactory reason for the war in Iraq.

The more we hear about it, the more we tune out the lies and the more we forget that young men and women are dying each day for no apparent reason.

New hands-free phones look ridiculous

Have you noticed an increasing number of people talking to themselves lately?

Maybe you are one of them. Or maybe you are one of those like me just left shaking your head.

While I think it is great that people enjoy staying up to date with the latest technology, these new bluetooth cell-phones have got to go. I’m talking about the cell phones people wear on their ear. These ear piece/microphones communicate wirelessly with a base station, freeing up the caller’s hands while talking.

These hands-free phones are a



Zach Becker  
Editor

great invention for an office environment, but taking them to out on the street is just going too far.

For one, it’s rude. People can’t tell when you are or are not on the cell phone. Cell phones are bad enough as it is, but

now you have to really concentrate to see if someone is talking to you or if they are conversing with an earpiece.

Secondly, the phones make people look plain crazy. Who goes around talking to themselves? It’s creepy.

The phones kind of remind me of the earpiece Uhura used to wear on Star Trek. But even Uhura wasn’t about to be seen wearing the stupid thing outside of the bridge of the Enterprise.

News flash: you don’t look cool. No one is envious of your new gadget. You just look like an idiot.

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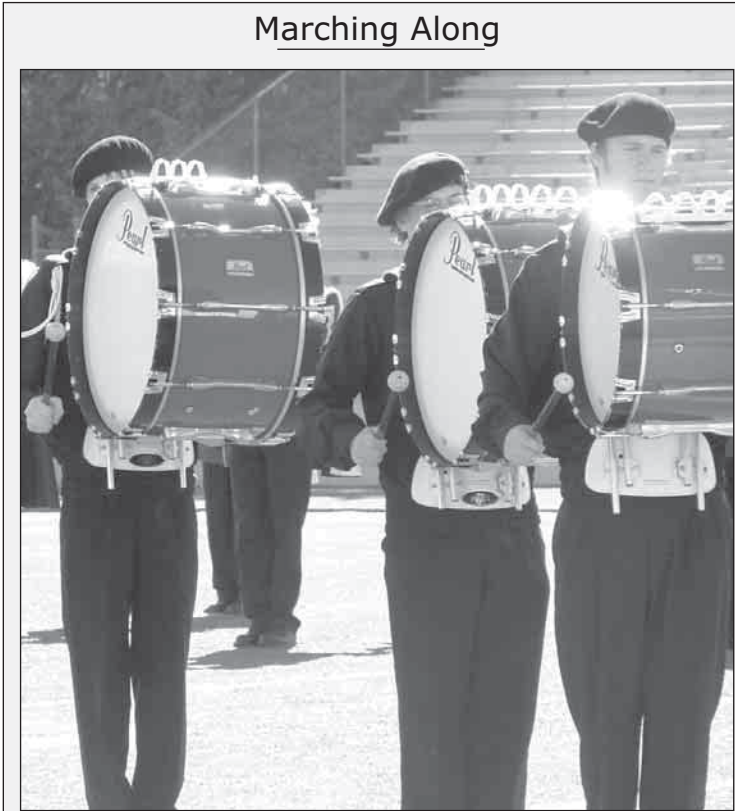
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ZACH BECKER/THE EDGE  
Great Bend High School band members perform during the High Plains Marching Festival at Lewis Field Stadium October 23. High school marching bands from around the state participated.

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▼ Free group classes

## Western Kansas String Academy offers orchestra classes to children

The Fort Hays State University's Western Kansas String Academy will offer free group classes, one each on violin, cello and guitar for children 5 years old and older at its annual String Fair and Open House on Nov. 11 in Malloy Hall.

Child-size instruments will be provided for each lesson. The lessons will run from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Each class will be limited to 10 students and each student will be matched with a "string buddy" who is a current WKSA student providing one-on-one help to each child during the class.

"We saw the need to help parents and students explore the idea of learning to play an instrument before committing time and money," said Cathy Drabkin, WKSA director. "Starting to play is a big decision."

The classes will teach the basics of each instrument and will give children and their parents a taste of what it's like to learn to learn to play before paying for instruments or lessons, said Drabkin.

There is no fee for the class, but students must register by Nov. 8 to ensure instruments of the proper sizes are on hand. KC Strings, Midwest Music and Roosevelt Elementary School are providing the instruments.

In addition to the classes, a variety of musical activities and performances will take place during the String Fair. Children of all ages are invited to participate in an Instrument Petting Zoo, which will include a violin, viola, cello, bass and guitar; a pre-school song circle; a "guess that instrument" listening game; and a musical

tour of orchestra and guitar rehearsals. Computer composing and Suzuki violin techniques will also be demonstrated.

WKSA orchestra and guitar students will provide musical illustrations to "Abiyoyo," read by Dr. Doug Drabkin, associate professor of philosophy, at 11 a.m. "Abiyoyo," by folk musician Pete Seeger, tells how music saved a village.

"We want to share how much fun music can be," said Cathy Drabkin. "Families are welcome to come and go during the morning."

Registration begins at 10:15 a.m. in Malloy Hall, room 115. The String Fair runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon. For more information or to register for a class, contact Cathy Drabkin at (785) 623-4187 or caddrabkin@fhsu.edu.

▼ Justice Jive

# Electronic monitoring helps states keep parolees free, yet controlled

The concept of electronically monitoring the location of parolees and probationers is not new.

Dr. Ralph Schwitzgebel, a member of Harvard's Science Committee on Psychological Experimentation, described in 1964 a system of "electronic parole" whereby a portable transceiver device could monitor a parolee's location 24 hours a day.

Researchers enthusiastically suggested that when specific offending behaviors can be accurately predicted and/or controlled within the offender's own environment, incarceration will no longer be necessary as a means of controlling behavior and protecting.

Parolees, mental patients, and researchers in Cambridge and Boston, Massachusetts wore the tracking devices between 1964 and 1970 to assist in developing the technique. A patent was issued for the device in 1969.

Publicity about the electronic tracking device generated proposals that included adding a microphone to transmit whatever the wearer heard or said; transmitters that might broadcast signals from sensors recording blood alcohol levels or other physiological data; and brain monitors to determine if the wearer was asleep, alert, or emotionally charged.

Another suggestion was the creation of a surveillance system that would combine individual, personally worn transponders with transceiver units strategically placed in buildings and along-side streets.

This large-scale monitoring system was designed to "transform crime deterrence into a problem in information processing and real-time cautioning by radio signals."

Nevertheless, the development of electronic monitoring devices made few advances until the early

**Martha J. Jones**  
*Justice Studies*

1980s when prison overcrowding created great demand for alternatives and the market became attractive enough to encourage commercialization.

One of the first successful personal telemonitoring devices was the "GOSSlink" electronic bracelet, inspired by the Spiderman comic strip.

In 1977, New Mexico District Court Judge Jack Love became intrigued with a cartoon in which a villain strapped a special bracelet on Spiderman's wrist to track the hero's whereabouts.

Judge Love wrote to his State's corrections department, enclosing a copy of the comic strip and a news article about transmitting devices that could track cargo and animals.

Nothing came of the idea for 4 years; then crowding in the county jail motivated the judge to contact several companies to discuss the feasibility of the device.

He convinced Michael Goss, a computer salesman, to quit his job to design and produce it.

Goss established National Incarceration Monitor and Control Services (NIMCOS) and developed an electronic bracelet that could be used to monitor probationers.

In 1983, after wearing the bracelet himself for 3 weeks, Judge Love ordered a probation violator to wear the device; and later added four additional offenders.

Since 1983, approximately 20 jurisdictions in 13 States have used electronic monitoring devices in probation and parole, presentence probation, work release, or house arrest programs.

At least 12 companies are involved in making electronic monitoring equipment for correctional use.

The electronic bracelet and monitor allow some offenders to remain in the home and aid in monitoring those on probation or parole.

Depending on the design, equipment can monitor offenders intermittently or continually and are thus called "passive" or "active" systems.

Passive monitoring systems have an automated caller programmed to dial the probationer's home.

They are frequently used in conjunction with a wristlet encoder device that the probationer inserts into a verifier box attached to the telephone.

The verifier box sends a signal to a computer, which records a violation if the telephone is not answered or the bracelet is not inserted.

Such systems are relatively inexpensive, simple to operate, and free of false alarms. Some monitoring systems also use computerized "voice verification" to verify the respondent is actually the offender.

One system has an optional second test that requires the offender to repeat a series of digits, using the telephone's touchtone keys.

This tests manual dexterity as a possible indication of drug or alcohol use.

Active monitoring systems usually consist of three components.

One is a transmitter device worn by the offender around the ankle, neck, or wrist, which transmits an encoded signal at regular intervals over a range of approximately 200 feet.

Also, they have a receiver unit located in the offender's home that detects signals from the transmitter and periodically reports to a central computer.

The third component is a control computer located at the criminal justice agency that accepts reports from the receiver unit over telephone lines, compares them with the offender's curfew schedule and alerts correctional personnel to unauthorized absences.

The ankle transmitter used in several active monitoring systems is about the size of a cigarette package, weighs about 5 ounces, and is strapped around the leg above the ankle with a strap containing an electronic circuit that detects tampering and sends an alarm to the receiving unit.

Electronic monitoring costs more than traditional probation, but less than prison confinement. Society and the prisoner benefit from the latter's continued ability to work and support his self and perhaps a family.

Such programs add to tax revenues, reduce welfare costs, and relieve the need to build additional prisons.

They also allow a prisoner to retain family and community ties. This is a benefit if those ties are healthy and supportive, but there is also the risk of continuing unhealthy associations - e.g., access to liquor and drugs.

A potential societal risk is that of widening the net of social control.

Some critics contend that there will be a tendency to criminalize all mildly socially unapproved behavior or to sanction longer terms or other harsher penalties for minor misdemeanors.

Society derives no benefit if offenders who would otherwise have successfully been placed on probation without monitoring are now electronically tracked.

For these people, a less costly probationary program would have proven just as effective and the level of social control less intrusive, yet consistent with their rehabilitation and the protection of society.

If it is used for serious felons, there is the possibility that they will elude monitoring long enough to commit other crimes. Some people think that the use of house arrest and monitoring devices has "Orwellian overtones" others rejoice that surveillance by a computer is less intrusive than confinement in a prison.

However, for the non-violent offender, electronic monitoring is a low cost alternative to incarceration that allows the offender to be an income earning, tax-paying member of society while at the same time, re-paying his debt to society.

Seems like a win-win situation to me.

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Football



TOM MANWARREN/  
THE EDGE  
Above, CJ Lovett runs after intercepting a pass with Ryan Dolan blocking. Far left, Coach Kevin Verdugo stands with the scoreboard in the background. Left, Adam Woods causes a fumble that is recovered by Cody Engle.

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PAGE 1

The Tiger defense caused havoc on Hinspeter all day, never allowing him to get in a rhythm. “We brought a bunch of different blitzes today,” Verdugo said. “They’re a team when you bring too many rushers they don’t always sight adjust. We were able to catch them a few times today when they didn’t have a quick throw available which helped out a great deal.”

Fort Hays converted on two fourth downs their next possession to keep their offense on the field.

On fourth and twelve, the Lions appeared to hold their ground as they forced Jackson to an incomplete pass, but a pass-interference call kept the Tigers’ drive alive.

The Tigers were able to salvage a field goal out of the drive as Justin Barr booted one through the uprights from 26 yards out to put the Tigers up 10-0.

The second half became an all-defensive half as neither team was capable of adding on any more points. This gave the Tigers their first shut-out since 2001 against Adams State by a score of 15-0.

Fort Hays State only netted 199 yards of total offense, but held Missouri Southern to 227 yards.

Jackson finished the game going 12-for-22 throwing for 140 yards. Witte and Tyler Manwarren led all receivers with four catches for 71 and 38 yards respectively.

Although the season is winding down, Verdugo likes his team’s excitement with two games left.

“If we can finish these last two games off in good fashion it could be a great spring board into recruiting and winter conditioning,” he said. “Our kids are out there every week now and practice extremely hard. They have great attitudes. They are not tanking anything and are trying to get better everyday.”

The Tigers will now face No. 16-ranked Missouri Western on the road next week. The Grif-fons (8-1, 6-1) squeaked by Southwest Baptist last Saturday 24-21. Fort Hays State (1-8, 1-6) leads the series between the two schools 10-4-1, but Missouri Western won the last meeting 37-14 back in 2001.

Volleyball wraps up season, looks to future

Erika Toepfer  
Sports Writer

The Lady Tigers put up a good fight by keeping the points on the board, but they just weren’t enough to pull away with the win at Saturday’s game against Missouri Western.

Missouri, apparently thinking this was an easy take, won three-out-of -4 games, but the Lady Tigers slipped in to win the second game by 2 points, resulting in a 30-28 win.

Sarah Mueller led the team with 44 sets. Whitney Miller led the Tigers with a high of 16 kills. Heather McDonald followed with 12 and Sarah Schinstock with 10.

The loss to Missouri ended their 2006 season, leaving them hoping for better luck next season.

“This was one of the most frustrating seasons I’ve had,” Coach Steve Smith said. “I had hoped to end with more wins than losses, but we were a far cry from that. We need to be able to take care of business. We’ll need to work on our ball control since that controls a lot of the points that

are put on the board, and we will need to work on our defense of play that we started to develop towards the last few matches.”

Smith is now focusing on recruiting to improve his weaknesses for next season, where he will be traveling to find the players for next year.

The Lady Tigers are in one of the toughest conferences not only regionally but nationally. The teams they played were all in the top-eight of those lists. The Lady Tigers finished 3-25 overall, and 1-12 in the MIAA.



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